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Professor Minoru Ohno
On the Occasion of his Retirement*

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大 野 稔 博 士
Professor Dr. M. Ohno

Emeritus Professor Minoru Ohno

Dr. Minoru Ohno retired on March 31 in 1972, after having completed total 38 years of service at Kyoto University. When he stepped down from the chair of research professor at Institute for Chemical Research, he stayed on as Professor Emeritus which was conferred upon him by the University.

Dr. Ohno is a native of Gifu Prefecture, born on October 17, 1908 and finished the primary and middle school courses and then enrolled in Gifu College of Agriculture and Forestry, majoring in agricultural chemistry. After the graduation, he left his home town to join Professor Takei's laboratory at the Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Kyoto University in 1930 when he started his academic career as an assistant of Professor Takei. Dr. Ohno was very skillful in organic chemical manipulations and soon proved himself to be a first-rate technician. Under Professor Takei, he was engaged in the structural elucidation of rotenone, pyrethrum assay and the study of aroma in manufactured green tea and black tea, and contributed very much to the activity of Professor Takei's laboratory. In particular, the studies on pyrethrum assay and leaf-alcohol and aldehyde were passed on him by Professor Takei and were investigated throughout the following three decades as Dr. Ohno's life work. In 1938, he was transferred to Institute for Chemical Research and worked there for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. In 1942, he was conferred a D. Sc. degree from Kyoto University for his study on leaf-alcohol and aldehyde. With the diploma, he left the Institute to work with Dainippon Jyotyugiku Company as the head of the research laboratories in the same year. During wartime, he temporarily worked for the Army Store. In 1946, he came back to the Institute as an instructor and started again the research works on pesticides and plant products. He was promoted to assistant professor in 1952 and full professor in 1956, succeeding his old professor.

Over the years, Dr. Ohno conducted studies on BHC, DDT, synergists, synthetic pyrethroids in collaboration with many co-workers and obtained some excellent achievements in the field of pesticide chemistry. Particularly, the pyrethrum assay and the study on leaf-alcohol and aldehyde which he re-examined and enthusiastically pursued in postwar time led him to an epoch-making development, by which he contributed very much to the industry.

Since 1963, Dr. Ohno taught phytochemistry at the graduate school of agriculture and was charged with supervising dissertation works of graduate students, during which he trained many Ph. D.'s.

Dr. Ohno is a person of high morality and sincerity, such that he wins respect of all people who come in contact with him. Thoughtfulness he extended to his colleagues and students will be remembered for a long long time.

April 1972

Eiji Suito

Director

Institute for Chemical Research
Kyoto University

CONTENTS

Commemoration Issue Dedicated to Professor Minoru Ohno on the Occasion of his Retirement

Originals

- Akikazu Hatanaka: Leaf Alcohol XX: Alcohol:NAD Oxidoreductase from
Tea Seeds135
- Koichi Koshimizu, Akio Kobayashi, Tetsuo Mitsui, Sachiko Matsubara and
Yotaro Tsukamoto: Isolation and Structure of Tulip Flower Factors which
Stimulate the Germination of Chrysanthemum Pollen142
- Naomichi Baba, Mitsunori Kirihaata, Takenosuke Takano and Minoru Ohno:
Color Reaction of Pyrethrins and Eugenol with Orthophosphoric, Sulfuric
and Hydrochloric Acids150
- Kazuyoshi Kawazu, Hajime Ohigashi, Norio Takahashi and Tetsuo Mitsui:
Piscicidal Constituents of *Calophyllum Inophyllum*160
- Masayuki Hamada and Mitsuo Chubachi: Photoinduced Oxygenation of
Rotenoids. I. Ring Contraction of Dehydrorotenone to Coumarono-
chromone168
- Masayuki Hamada and Eiko Kawano: The Stereochemistry of Tritium
Labeling of Hexachlorocyclohexane Isomers. I. Gas Exposure Method ...175
- Jun-ichi Oda, Michio Horiike and Yuzo Inouye: Reaction of Chloramines
Part IV. The Reaction of Chloramines with β -Ketoesters and β -Diketones ...183
- Akikazu Hatanaka: Leaf Alcohol XXI: Photochemical and Thermal Isomeri-
zation among Leaf Aldehyde and its Isomers192
- Hiromichi Matsubara: Studies on Synergist for Insecticides. (XXVII) On the
Synergistic Effect of Several Lignans on Pyrethrins and Allethrin197
- Eiichi Fujita, Kaoru Fuji, Shigetaka Nakamura and Yoshihisa Takaishi: In-
vestigation of the Non-basic Constituents of *Lythrum Anceps* MAKINO206

Notes

- Kentaro Okumura, Tameo Iwasaki, Tadashi Okawara and Kazuo Matsumoto:
Synthesis of L- β -Chloroalanine Derivative from L-Aspartic Acid209
- Toshio Sugita, Keiichi Honda, Osamu Itoh and Katsuhiko Ichikawa: Effects
of Anions of Mercuric Salts in Oxymercuration216

Communications

- Tameo Iwasaki, Kazuo Matsumoto, Manabu Matsuoka and Muneji
Miyoshi: Simultaneous Cleavage of N-Tosyl and S-Benzyl Groups in
Amino Acid and Peptide by Electrolytic Reduction220
- Takeshi Igarashi, Jun-ichi Oda and Yuzo Inouye: Partial Asymmetric Synthesis
of 4-2-Octalone with Chiral Enamine222

Reviews

Katsuhiko Ichikawa and Sakae Uemura: Oxidation Involved in Organometallic Reactions	225
Hajime Ohigashi and Tetsuo Mitsui: Studies on the Biologically Active Substances of <i>Sapium japonicum</i> (Euphorbiaceae)	239
Katsuhiko Kitahara, Hideki Kohno and Minoru Nakajima: Synthetic Studies of Kasugamycin and Related Compounds	275

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